

I CLAIM:

1) An improved tape measure for making an internal measurement from a member of the type having,

a tape coiled in a housing having a tape hook external to the housing on an unattached end portion of the tape, and measurement lines and numerals on a concave side portion of the tape which increment from the hook and which can be read when the hook is pulled from the housing, wherein the improvement comprises:

a non slip means positioned along an outside face portion of the hook so that when the outside of the belt hook is pressed against one member the belt hook will be less inclined to slip therealong.

2) A tape measure as in claim 1 wherein the non slip means comprises a roughened surface having a multiplicity of rough points.

3) A tape measure as in claim 2 wherein the non slip means comprises a pointed barb.

4) A tape measure as in claim 1 further comprising a light positioned to illuminate a measured length on the tape.

5) A tape measure as in claim 4 wherein the light comprises a light emitting diode.

6) A tape measure as in claim 5 further comprising a tape brake and a light switch which is positioned to be operated in conjunction with the tape brake.

7) A tape measure as in claim 6 wherein the light switch comprises a slide button centrally positioned on the tape brake.

8) A tape measure as in claim 4 wherein the light comprises a focused light positioned to illuminate the measured length on the tape so that the exact measured length on the tape is indicated by the focused light and the problem of parallax is largely avoided.

9) A tape measure as in claim 8 wherein the focused light comprises a laser.

10) A tape measure as in claim 9 wherein the tape comprises numerals for outside measurement of one color and numerals for inside measurement of a different color and wherein the numerals for inside measurement significantly contrast with a color of the light emitting diode so that the numerals for inside measurement will significantly stand out from the numerals for outside measurement when the light emitting diode is switched on.

11) An improved tape measure having:

a tape coiled in a housing having a tape hook external to the housing on an unattached end portion of the tape, and measurement lines and numerals on a concave side portion of the tape which increment from the hook, and which can be read when the hook is pulled from the housing, and a belt clip having a downwardly extending arm attached to a broad side of the housing wherein the improvement comprises:

a soft plastic gripping pad positioned on one of the belt clip arm and the broad side of the housing adjacent to the arm to provide better adhesion when the belt clip is engaged on a worn belt.

12.) A tape measure as in claim 11 wherein a lower portion of the belt clip arm has an opening therethrough and wherein the gripping pad extends through the opening as well as over and around the opening on both a belt side and an opposite side of the belt clip arm.

13.) A tape measure as in claim 12 wherein the gripping pad is additionally placed on the housing adjacent to a lower portion of the belt clip arm.

14.) A tape measure as in claim 13 wherein the gripping pad comprises a raised area on one of the belt clip and the housing.

15.) A method of taking an internal measurement from a member with a tape measure having a tape coiled in a housing, a tape hook external to the housing on an unattached end portion of the tape, measurement lines and numerals on a concave side portion of the tape which increment from the hook and which can be read when the hook is pulled from the housing comprises the steps of:

positioning a non slip means along an outside face portion of the hook on the tape measure; and,

pressing the non slip means on the outside of the hook against one member with the tape so that the hook will be less inclined to slip therealong.

16.) A method as in claim 15 wherein the tape measure comprises a light positioned to illuminate a measured length on the tape, and further comprising the step of switching on the light when measuring.

17.) A method as in claim 16 wherein the light comprises a light emitting diode.

18.) A method as in claim 15 wherein the light comprises a focused light configured so that the problem of parallax is largely avoided.

19.) A method as in claim 15 wherein the tape measure is provided with a belt clip having a downwardly extending arm attached to a broad side of the housing

and a soft plastic gripping pad is positioned on one of the belt clip arm and the broad side of the housing adjacent to the arm; and further providing the step of clipping the tape measure to a worn belt to thereby provide better adhesion when the belt clip is engaged on the worn belt.